

Application No. 10/727,517

Reply to Notice of Allowance of August 12, 2005

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 8-12, and 18-20 remain active in this application, Claims 2-7 and 13-17 having previously been canceled and Claim 9 having been amended by the present amendment.

Presently, Claims 1-2, 8-12, and 18-20 stand allowed.

The present amendment is submitted to correct an unnecessary limiting of Claim 9, which was amended by the amendment filed May 12, 2005 to depend from amended Claim 1. However, original Claim 9 was indicated as including allowable subject matter, so that it was unduly limiting to amend Claim 9 to depend from amended Claim 1, which was amended to include the features stated in original Claims 5, 6 and 7. In particular, whereas original Claim 9 depended from Claim 6, it was unnecessary and in error to amend Claim 9 to depend from amended Claim 1, which in addition to the features stated in original Claim 6, also includes the features stated in original Claim 7. Therefore, the present amendment is made to amend Claim 9 to have the scope of original Claim 9 rewritten in independent form to include the features stated in original Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9.

Since the pending Claims 1-2, 8-12, and 18-20 have been allowed, and in view of the amendment of original Claim 9, previously indicated as including allowable subject matter, to be in independent form, the present amendment is not believed to raise any new issues, and

Application No. 10/727,517  
Reply to Notice of Allowance of August 12, 2005

Claims 1-2, 8-12, and 18-20 are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Charles L. Gholz  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 26,395

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Registration No. 28,870

\\ATTY\EHK\AMEND-RESPONSES\245233US AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.114.DOC